

COMMENTS OF DONALD L. FOWLER
ON THE REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL
ON DIVISION NO. 98-1- In Re: BRUCE EDWARD BABBITT

In stating on page 435 of her report that

...the evidence is insufficient to prove that his (Fowler's) actions, however inappropriate, were intended to criminally corrupt the Hudson decision making process, or that his actions did in fact criminally corrupt the decision of the Hudson casino application...

the Independent Counsel brought into clear focus both the strength and weakness of her investigation. While her finding of no criminal conduct is certainly accurate, her editorial comment "however inappropriate" is itself inappropriate, skewed and unfounded.

There was never any intent or action on my part to engage in criminal or inappropriate conduct. Any person who is the chair of national political party has multiple responsibilities and deals with thousands of people on a multitude of issues, including fundraising. Implicit in the report of the Independent Counsel is the assumption that dealing with anyone who is a contributor, particularly a contributor of large sum of money, about matters relating to the government is inappropriate or suspect. Such an assumption demonstrates a lack of understanding of the customary, legal, and ethical conduct of contemporary politics.